

# THE MESSIAH HERALD



**JANUARY 2017**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**3 SOUTH THIRD STREET**

**MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059**

**(717)-436-6213**

**INTERIM PASTOR -- REV. CHRIS MATHIASON -- [cmathiason001@luthersem.edu](mailto:cmathiason001@luthersem.edu)**

**CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.mlc-mifflintown.org](http://www.mlc-mifflintown.org)**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net)**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES! – 9:15 AM**

**WORSHIP, JR. CHURCH, & COMMUNION – 10:30 AM**

**[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)**

**[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)**



## ***Less Netflix, More Evangelism***

Do you desire to see the gospel advance through you? But do you spend too much time catering to your own desires (think social media, Netflix, hobbies, etc.)? Be honest. Thankfully, the Lord has given us stories in the Bible that should motivate us away from selfishness and into the lives of the lost. For example, Acts 17 chronicles the spread of the gospel into three cities in Macedonia—Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. At that point in Acts, the gospel was advancing “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Let’s think about this narrative, though you might read Acts 17 before continuing.

### ***WHAT HAPPENED IN THESSALONICA, BEREA, AND ATHENS?***

*First, the gospel was proclaimed.* Paul and his team didn’t just go from place to place helping the sick. We have no record of them building homes for local residents. They might have ministered to the sick or served on a construction team, but Acts 17 emphasizes the verbal proclamation of the gospel. It abounds in “speech” words such as “reasoned,” “explaining,” “proving,” “saying,” “proclaimed,” “conversed,” and “preaching.”

Because of the diversity of the cultures, Paul employed a “fill in the gaps” method of preaching. He always shared the gospel, but the people’s knowledge was potentially different in each location. So, for example, in Thessalonica (and presumably Berea), he was speaking to a largely Jewish audience (and Gentiles who were catechized in Jewish theology)—people who already had a basic knowledge of God and the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. Consequently, the “gap” that needed to be filled in their thinking was that “Jesus...is the Christ.” But in idol-worshipping Athens, the people needed to know fundamental truths about God’s character. In every place, the resurrection of Jesus was emphasized (see vv. 3, 18, 31-32).

The normal location of Paul’s evangelism was the synagogue (vv. 1, 10, 17). In Athens, he also evangelized in the marketplace (v. 17). Unlike so

much evangelism today that is mainly about getting unbelievers to a church building, Paul intentionally went out to unbelievers who were already having religious or philosophical discussions and sought to bring the truth about Christ into the dialogue.

*Second, people believed and joined with other believers.* Jews and Gentiles, men and women, even those of “high standing,” believed (vv. 4, 12, 34). Once they believed, they followed Christ together: In Thessalonica, they “*joined* Paul and Silas” (v. 4), and in Athens, “some men *joined* him” (v. 34). Though this doesn’t reveal much about the formation of local churches, the believers clearly “picked sides.” We know for certain that a local church was formed in Thessalonica, because not long after Paul’s visit to Thessalonica, he wrote First Thessalonians, which begins, “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians” (1:1). No doubt there were churches in Berea and Athens, also.

*Third, opposition arose.* In Thessalonica, jealous Jews formed a mob with wicked men of the city in order to thwart Paul and his team. When they couldn’t find them, they abducted “Jason and some of the brothers” and charged them with “acting against the decrees of Caesar” (vv. 5-7). In Berea, Jews came from Thessalonica, “agitating and stirring up the crowd” against the gospel advancers (v. 13). In Athens, “some mocked” Paul (v. 32).

This opposition was not at all surprising. Jesus warned his disciples, “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20). And Paul had previously told the believers in Galatia during his first missionary journey, “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). Gospel proclamation in Macedonia made persecution automatic.

### ***ARE YOU MOTIVATED YET?***

I live in a city that is home to a baseball team that just won the World Series. It was a pleasurable experience, capped off by a parade and rally attended by nearly one million people! But now everybody is “back to reality.” The World

Series was fun while it lasted, a great local story, but it couldn't go on forever. Acts 17 reminds us about the most important worldwide story that is unfolding, something that matters for eternity—Jesus is building His church, and He's doing it through believers who proclaim Him.

The gospel is for *everyone*—people of all cultures and “knowledge gaps”; people with different languages and hues of skin; people who are terribly wicked, and those who are considered “pretty nice.” All have this one great need—the Lord Jesus Christ. And the gospel is *powerful*—no matter the opposition, Christ's sheep hear His voice (through the words of the Bible and gospel proclamation) and they follow Him.

Take off your headphones. Shut off your tablet. And go, tell someone about Jesus.

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

JANUARY 1 ----- MATTHEW 2:13-23  
*INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO SEEK TO SERVE AND SAVE CHILDREN*

JANUARY 2 ----- LUKE 2:15-21  
*MISSIONARIES AND EVANGELISTS*

JANUARY 3 ----- HEBREWS 2:8-10  
*THOSE WHO WORK TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING AND PAIN OF OTHERS*

JANUARY 4 ----- ISAIAH 41:1-9  
*THOSE WHO SEEK JUSTICE AND EXTEND MERCY*

JANUARY 5 ----- PSALM 29  
*PEACEMAKERS*

JANUARY 6 ----- MATTHEW 2:1-12  
*THOSE FOR WHOM LIFE SEEMS DRY AND WITHOUT A DESTINATION*

JANUARY 7 ----- ACTS 10:34-43  
*THOSE WHO ENCOURAGE LIVES OF HUMILITY*

JANUARY 8 ----- MATTHEW 3:13-17  
*THOSE WHO WORK FOR CLEAN WATER EVERYWHERE*

JANUARY 9 ----- ISAIAH 22:15-25  
*PREACHERS AND TEACHERS OF THE WORD*

JANUARY 10 ----- I KINGS 19:19-21  
*MENTORS IN THE FAITH*

JANUARY 11 ----- GALATIANS 1:6-12  
*THOSE LURED BY A FALSE GOSPEL*

JANUARY 12 ----- ISAIAH 49:1-7  
*THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE HARDEST AND HUNGRIEST OF PLACES*

JANUARY 13 ----- PSALM 40:1-11  
*CHURCH MUSICIANS WHO BLESS AND BEAUTIFY OUR WAITING*

JANUARY 14 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9  
*WORSHIP PLANNERS*

JANUARY 15 ----- JOHN 1:29-42  
*THOSE WHO DO THE RIGHT THING IN FAITH AND HOPE*

JANUARY 16 ----- I SAMUEL 9:27 – 10:8  
*THOSE OPPRESSED BY THEIR LEADERS*

JANUARY 17 ----- I SAMUEL 15:34 – 16:13  
*REFUGEE AND ABANDONED CHILDREN*

JANUARY 18 ----- ACTS 4:8-13  
*THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM*

JANUARY 19 ----- ISAIAH 9:1-4  
*THOSE LIVING WITH DEPRESSION*

JANUARY 20 ----- PSALM 27:1, 4-9  
*WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD MISCARRIAGES*

JANUARY 21 ----- I CORINTHIANS 1:10-18  
*THOSE YOU FEAR OR DON'T UNDERSTAND*

JANUARY 22 ----- MATTHEW 4:12-23  
*THOSE WHO WORK ON THE SEA*

JANUARY 23 ----- DEUTERONOMY 16:18-20  
*CHILDCARE WORKERS*

JANUARY 24 ----- DEUTERONOMY 24:17 – 25:4  
*FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS*

JANUARY 25 ----- ACTS 9:1-20  
*NEW BELIEVERS IN CHRIST*

JANUARY 26 ----- MICAH 6:1-8  
*THOSE WHO HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY*

JANUARY 27 ----- PSALM 15  
*ELCA OUTDOOR MINISTRIES*

JANUARY 28 ----- I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31  
*STORYTELLERS AND WRITERS*

JANUARY 29 ----- MATTHEW 5:1-12  
*VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*

JANUARY 30 ----- I JOHN 5:1-5  
*SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS*

JANUARY 31 ----- DEUTERONOMY 4:1-14  
*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*



## PRAYER REQUEST REMINDER!!

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at [messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net)! If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

## JANUARY SERVANTS

### LECTORS

- 1 Ron Yorks
- 8 Cynthia Smith
- 15 Barbara S. Geedey
- 22 Bob St. Clair
- 29 Andrea Cameron

### ACOLYTES

- 1 Jace White & Tai Kepler
- 8 Harrison Mummah & Braedon Walton
- 15 Nathan Swailes & Tyler Rosenberry
- 22 Haley Mummah & Hannah Ehrisman
- 29 Garrett Berry & Caden Swailes

### ALTAR GUILD

December 26 to January 29 ..... Kay Varner

### ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1 OPEN
- 8 OPEN
- 15 OPEN
- 22 OPEN
- 29 OPEN

## UPCOMING PASTORS & LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

January 1 ..... Andrea Cameron  
January 8 ..... Sam Leister  
January 15 ..... Stephen Rodgers  
January 22 ..... Rev. Paul Kampa  
January 29 ..... Richard Beck



WELCA met on Thurs., Dec. 8 for their Christmas program. Everyone brought a special reading and Christmas snack. We read the Christmas story from the book of Luke and enjoyed good fellowship. Several people brought Christmas decorations that also had a special meaning.

Barb Geedey has reported that the knitters will start up again on Monday, January 9th at 6:30 in the Junior Church room.

Our January meeting will be held on Thurs., January 12, 2017 at 7 P.M. Cynthia Smith will have the devotions.

## MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to contribute to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to:

Juniata Meals-On-Wheels  
P.O. Box 251  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone involved in creating such a memorable service on Christmas Eve. This includes everyone from the Diana Wise and the Board of Worship & Music to worship leaders, Andrea Cameron and Sam Leister, to the kids who participated in every way possible, to the organist and junior and senior choirs, who brought the word of our Lord's birth to life, to Judy, our church secretary who finalized and put together not one, but two bulletins for Christmas weekend. The service was a wonderful selection of song and scripture and the candle lighting service was beautiful. Thank you again for everything!!

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

### LOCUST GROVE

(69 COTTAGE DRIVE, MIFFLIN, PA 17058)

Jean McNaight  
190 JAM House Rd., Cottage #5  
Mifflin, PA 17058

### BROOKLINE MANOR & REHAB SERVICES

(2 MANOR BLVD., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Flo Beale, Sara Ann Aurand, Reba Sigler

### BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Jane Marhefka  
92 Village Drive  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

### BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(62 LEXI STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

### NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

(99 NORTHRIDGE DR., MCALISTERVILLE, PA 17049)

Dorothy Cleck      Dottie Smith

### HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108,  
THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney      Ray Bramm

### LEHIGH CENTER

(1718 SPRING CREEK ROAD, ROOM 205B, MACUNGIE,  
PA 18062)

Lura Aughey

### AT HOME

Fay McCormick      Jim Yetter  
38 Wagon Wheel Lane      128 Manbeck Drive  
Mifflintown, PA 17059      Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters      Craig Walker  
P.O. Box 61      7016 Rt. 333  
Port Royal, PA 17082      Mifflintown, PA 17059

Mona Lawson  
2792 William Penn Hwy.  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

## PRAYER LIST (AS OF DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>)

Bob & Jeanette St. Clair	Rick Waller, Sr.
Avonel Waller	Jim Woltman
Bob Cameron	Michal Gayer
Josh Delancey	Letha Swab
Brady Mingle	Belva Fulton
Janie Shearer	Joan Foltz
Mary Ernest	John Miller
Orville Graybill	Ellen Calhoun
Harold 'Butch' Oberholtzer	

## STORE GIFT CARDS

Giant Store Gift Cards  
are also now available as  
well as the Weis Cards to  
purchase from members of  
the Disciples Class.



## HELP AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209.

## "CHRIST IN OUR HOME"

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in "Christ in our Home," which can be picked up and are FREE.....and are located at the back of the adult Sunday school room. Get yours today!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING IN THE  
MONTH OF JANUARY.....

January 1 --- Marylou Hazard

January 29 - Erin Harris

If you want to add your name to the birthday/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let Bob St. Clair know at [stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com).

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Andrea Cameron and our wonderful choir for the gifts given to me this Christmas! It is my honor and pleasure to provide

music the entire choir, let alone the entire congregation of Messiah throughout the year! God bless each one of you! --Bob St. Clair

### THANK YOU!

“Dear Messiah Lutheran.....With your help we were able to make Christmas a little brighter for over 150 children in Juniata County. Thank you for your generosity. Merry Christmas and God bless!”

--Ted, Nicole & Marley Wilson, Christmas Angels Project

## MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS – DECEMBER 4 TO 26, 2017

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
December 4	73 – Worship 26 – S.S.	\$4,300.00	\$2,753.00	Sunday School -- \$62.00 Benevolence -- \$115.00 Building Fund -- \$930.00 Choir Gowns -- \$255.00 Flowers -- \$65.00 Summer Camp -- \$30.00 Use of Fell. Hall -- \$50.00 Memorial Fund -- \$40.00
December 11	67 – Worship 38 – S.S.	\$3,790.00	\$2,909.00	Sunday School -- \$49.00 Benevolence -- \$370.00 Building Fund -- \$290.00 Choir Gowns -- \$110.00 Flowers -- \$32.00 Matthew 25 -- \$30.00
December 18	76 – Worship 28 – S.S.	\$3,541.00	\$2,816.00	Sunday School -- \$30.00 Benevolence -- \$195.00 Building Fund -- \$315.00 Choir Gowns -- \$115.00 Matthew 25 -- \$50.00 World Hunger -- \$20.00
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	107 – Worship	\$1,893.00	\$705.00	Benevolence -- \$35.00 Building Fund -- \$30.00 Choir Gowns -- \$110.00 Matthew 25 -- \$1,005.00 Flowers -- \$8.00
December 25	44 – Worship	\$4,132.00	\$3,371.00	Benevolence -- \$100.00 Building Fund -- \$30.00 Choir Gowns -- \$340.00 Matthew 25 -- \$100.00 Flowers -- \$191.00

THE 2017 FLOWER CHART is in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, the 2017 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick-up. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2016 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

## **JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY JANUARY UPDATE**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We are so thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry during November and December. With your help we were able to provide almost 700 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for neighbors who would have gone without. As we wind down our joyous celebrations of the holiday season, it's important to remember that for some folks this season has a different name: "The Season of Heat or Eat!" Many families this winter will have to choose whether to heat their homes or buy food and other necessities. Please continue to keep them in mind and in prayer as you pack away Christmas decorations and finish off leftovers.

In November 2016, the Food Pantry served 357 families - 1018 individuals! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November. Because it's flu season, and many of our families will be trying to battle illness as well as a lack of heat, if you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:**

All non-perishable foods; tissues; toilet paper; OTC pain; cold and flu medicines, cough drops, Vicks. We also gladly accept donations of cash and gift cards to purchase these supplies.

***CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE APPRECIATED!***  
**No More Plastic Bags, PLEASE** (although we will gladly accept clean cloth bags)

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12

Once again, our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. \*Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

\*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE  
**JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.**  
(CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH).  
Email: [jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com](mailto:jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com)



***HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!***

**WE WISH YOU A BLESSED NEW YEAR IN THE FAITH OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST. MAY THE YEAR 2017 BE FILLED WITH GOOD  
HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PEACE AND JOY!**

# JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, January 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron)
- Monday, January 2: -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 3: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 4: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 5: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
- Sunday, January 8: BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Sam Leister)
- Monday, January 9: -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room  
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 10: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall  
-6:30 p.m., 4-H Beef Club in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 11: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 12: -7:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting
- Sunday, January 15: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers)
- Monday, January 16: -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room  
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 17: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall  
-6 to 9 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 18: -7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 19: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
- Saturday, January 21: -9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, January 22: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: The Rev. Paul Kampa)
- Monday, January 23: -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room  
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 24: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 25: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 26: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- Sunday, January 29: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Service of Healing (Worship Leader: Richard Beck)
- Monday, January 30: -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room  
-8:00 p.m., AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 31: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall



# MESSIAH SR. CHOIR

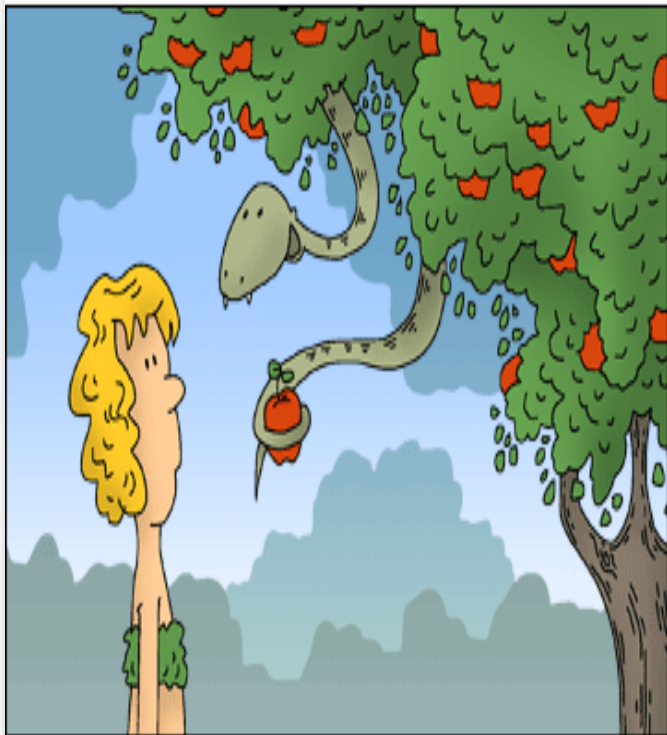
Make a joyful noise!  
**Make a joyful noise!**

Fun and fellowship



## Wednesdays from 7 to 8 PM!!

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(See Genesis 3) 12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

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12-31-1997

THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



## Epiphany.

Darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples;

But the Lord will rise upon you  
and his glory will be seen.

Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness  
of your rising.

- Isaiah 60: 1-3

**In the cold winter  
experience the  
warmth of God's love.**

**“To be a Christian without  
prayer is no more possible  
than to be alive without  
breathing.”**

**--DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING**